Musket

Vol. XV, No. 4 Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. April 3, 1992

Pouring out his soul, senior George Wang clutches senior Diane Holland on Valentine's Day. Wang's singing quartet, comprised of Wang, junior Hong Kwon, junior Steven Kim, and senior Peter Bellini, was one of six to continue the annual ritual of serenading unsuspecting students at the behest of their mischievous friends. The sale of Singing Valentines raised nearly 500 dollars to benefit the music department.

Photo by Jon Feldman

Senate Awaits S.C. Vote

by Will Eisner
and Taryn Roeder

The Lexington School Committee has decided to resolve the issue of condom availability at Lexington High School by the third week in June. At its March 17 meeting, the Committee referred the controversial Condom Bill back to the Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate.

The Senate had recently overridden Principal David A. Wilson's February 12 veto of the bill.

The School Committee also voted to have the high school administration inform families that condoms and educational materials are available free of charge at RePlace, a teen counseling center in Lexington.

Chairperson Sheldon Spector stated that the School Committee is currently in the process of fielding "community input" on the condom issue and is contacting area schools that have already instituted condom availability programs.

Several members of the Lexington High School community spoke before the Committee. Seniors Jeremy Giller and Josh Knobe began the discussion with a presentation of the findings of a Senate subcommittee created to research the condom issue.

Giller addressed the bill's content and the rationale behind the bill.

According to his report, 50 percent of seniors responding to a homeroom survey described themselves as sexually active and 53 percent of those sexually active seniors said that they did not always use a condom.

Giller also discussed the educational materials that would accompany the condoms. He emphasized that throughout the educational materials are messages supporting abstinence "as the only foolproof method" of avoiding sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

Continued on page 2

Budget Plans Released

by Will Eisner

The Lexington School Committee and acting Superintendent of Schools Richard Barnes have unveiled four possible budget scenarios for the 1992-1993 school year. The School Committee is currently in the process of finalizing the school budget with the town's Board of Selectmen.

The proposals were formed in response to four different funding possibilities, as described in a March 12 letter from the School Committee to staff and parents: a 1.66 percent increase from this year's budget, a zero percent increase, a 1.8 percent decrease, and a 5.7 percent decrease.

Several factors will dictate which of these proposals becomes reality. Among the possible measures that could provide additional funds to the schools are a trash collection fee and an override of Proposition 2 1/2. In addition, the amount of local aid from the state, the potential renegotiation of teachers' salary increases, and the number of teachers who enroll in the school system's early retirement plan will play a role in determining the final budget.

Former School Committee Chairperson Lois Coit commented that it was "absolutely unpredictable" how much money would be given to the schools next year. She added, "There are so many variables involved, we can't responsibly say what will happen."

The First Proposal

According to the School Committee, the most optimistic proposal, the 1.66 percent increase, would still require some cuts.

In addition to several other reductions under the proposal, user fees would be instituted for sports programs at all levels and for the instrumental music program and debate travel. 3.6 teachers would be eliminated under the plan.

The Second Proposal

The level-funded plan includes all of the cuts under the first proposal. At the High School, half of the home economics department would be cut and three teachers would be eliminated, necessitating larger class sizes. A total of 14.6 teachers would be eliminated.

The Third Proposal

The third proposed plan assumes that the schools will receive $500,000 less than they did this year, a 1.8 percent decrease. Town Manager Richard White is currently recommending this $500,000 cut to help cover a town deficit.

In addition to those cuts included in the first two proposals, the High School would see an increase in English teachers' student loads, staff reduction in math, social studies, foreign languages, and industrial technology.

The cuts would necessitate the elimination of one block from the High School's current eight-block schedule. This change would create fewer options in class selection and indirectly result in the elimination of several non-major courses. A total of 31.5 teachers would be eliminated under this plan.

The Fourth Proposal

The School Committee wrote, "As the situation stands now, [the fourth proposal] would be next year's budget," in which case "the schools we know now would be gone."

The fourth budget proposal assumes that citizens will not override Proposition 2 1/2 or accept a town-wide garbage collection fee, thus necessitating an additional $1.1 million dollar cut from the school budget

This scenario would necessitate the total elimination of the home economics and industrial technology programs at the High School, as well as the reduction of one teacher from each of the information science, business, visual arts, and foreign language departments.

The School Committee noted that it has yet to approve any of these proposals, but that "any modifications or options would only be shifting the damage."

Inside

•**Haydenettes:** Lexington figure skating group captures gold medal in Finland. Page 3.

•**Sexism in Education:** Why are girls losing out in math and science classes? Page 4.

Young to Be Next Supt.

After 4-1 vote, S.C. signs Young to multi-year contract

by Will Eisner
and Jeremy Giller

In the culmination of a selection process that began over eight months ago, the Lexington School Committee voted on February 26 to offer Jeffrey M. Young the position of superintendent of schools.

The 4-1 vote in favor the current Lynnfield superintendent came after several hours of debate over the three finalists for the position.

In March 23, contract negotiations with Young were completed. He will assume the superintendency on July 6, 1992, with base a salary of $88, 500 a year. His contract will run through June 30, 1996, unless the School Committee gives notice of its desire to terminate the contract on or before March 15, 1994.

After signing the contract, Young said that he was "looking forward to getting started in Lexington."

Former School Committee Chairperson Coit said, "The interviewing process has shown [Young] to be extremely competent. He will bring many skills with him when he comes to Lexington."

Polly Woodworth was the only School Committee member who did not support Young. In addition to Coit, members John Oberteuffer, Sheldon Spector, and Albert Zabin voted to offer a contract to Young.

Young, who has been superintendent in Lynnfield for two-and-a-half years, stated, "The Lexington School System represents one of the the finest school systems around."

Young graduated from Brandeis University in 1974. He received his master's degree in education from Tufts University and in 1977 began teaching English at Brookline High School. In the 1982-1983 school year, he served as acting co-chairman of the the school's English department.

After serving through 1985 in the role of curriculum coordinator for grades 6-8, Young left Brookline to become a consultant for systemwide planning to the Cambridge Public Schools. In 1988, Young received his doctorate in education from Harvard University.

Since that time, Young has been employed by the Lynnfield Public Schools, first as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction and now as superintendent.

Future Superintendent Jeffrey Young observes the Senate in session on February 5.

Photo by Jon Feldman

Young was offered the Lexington position over two other finalists: George I. Blaisdell, superintendent in North Andover, and Kathleen F. Donovan, superintendent in York, Maine.

Eighty-one people applied for the position last October.

The finalists were introduced to Lexington on February 4, 5, and 6. On Saturday, February 8, the finalists were interviewed by the School Committee at Clarke Middle School.

Members of the School Committee and others then made site visits to each of the finalists' communities during the following week.

Continued on page 2

Seniors Face Deadline on Community Service

by Mandira Mehra

This year's graduating class will be the first at Lexington High School to fulfill a mandatory community service requirement. The requirement, instituted by a 1988 Student/Faculty Senate bill, is that all students complete 20 hours of unpaid community service during their four years at LHS.

The program was originally managed by Nancy Gordon, coordinator of experience-based education. This fall, the responsibility for the program was transferred to Assistant Principal for Student Affairs Larry Robinson.

Robinson stressed that students who have not completed the 20-hour requirement simply will not graduate. At the end of the first semester, a list of seniors who had not yet completed their hours was sent to the guidance counselors, who in turn sent letters home to the parents of the students.

Other such listings will be produced at the beginning and end of May, accompanied by mailings to the parents of students who still have not completed their service. The letters will state that, unless the hours are completed, the students will not graduate.

Robinson has delegated many of the organizational and secretarial duties of the job to four sophomores in an effort, according to Robinson, to make the program more student-oriented.

The students handle information sent in by organizations looking for help, assist students in finding work, and ensure that students are completing their hours. Gordon still plays an active role in the program, dealing with the placement of students within community organizations.

Once a student has selected a work site, he or she must obtain Robinson's approval. Students must also submit a form which verifies their work. The process is fairly simple, because, as Robinson commented, "We want students to gain from the experience, not to get caught up in a bureaucracy."

The community service program is not unique to the High School. The LHS requirement is small in comparison to that of other local programs such as the one at Belmont High School, which requires students to complete 90 hours of service.

One Lexington student commented, "Five hours per years is not a huge chunk of your life." The LHS program serves as a model for other schools who call Lexington for information. According to Robinson, Newton North High School is interested in modeling its own program after that of Lexington.

Student opinions differ on the legitimacy of the requirement. Juniors Albert Teng and Justine Oppenheim believe the requirement is unfair. Oppenheim said, "It's not fair to have community service as a graduation requirement because lots of kids have other activities that take up their time."

Teng added, "The requirement defeats the purpose of community service by forcing people to do something that should be voluntary."

On the other side, junior Lea DiMascio commented, "The requirement exposes kids to new experiences and prevents them from leading sheltered lives." Junior Laura Premack added, "It gives students an incentive to make room in their schedules for community service. Even if a person feels they haven't benefited from their 20 hours, the community has."

The Haydenettes, fourteen of whom attend Lexington High School, pose for a team picture after capturing the 1992 Eastern Precision Team Skating Championships. The team recently competed in Finland. Photo courtesy Kate Bunting

June Decision on Condom Bill

Continued from page 1

The school condoms, available free from the state, were rated as the most durable of the 40 types tested by *Consumer Reports* magazine in March 1989.

Knobe discussed the extensive background of the condom issue in Lexington. He also spoke of the many people the subcommittee had contacted, including parents, members of the AIDS/STD Parent Education Program Committee, and the director of RePlace, Inc.

He then related the results of some research that has been conducted on the condom availability issue. He cited two studies which revealed that sex education alone does not have an impact on the sexual activity of students. In addition, he discussed a study which revealed that with the implementation of a condom availability program in San Francisco, condom use rose from 29 percent to 56 percent among those sexually active.

Finally, he commented that this same survey showed that neither onset nor the frequency of sexual activity was affected by condom availability at schools.

Sam Kafrissen, a faculty Senator, stated before the School Committee that the problem of sexually transmitted diseases at the high school is one that will "not just go away."

He added that the Condom Bill is "not intended to condone sexual activity" and that if nothing is done "the situation will only get worse." He concluded by saying, "Action is sorely needed."

Spector stated that the issue of condom availability will be dealt with "by the third week in June." The Committee fielded the first official public comment on the issue at its Tuesday, March 31 meeting.

The Condom Bill came before the School Committee after the Senate's February 26 override of Wilson's veto. The bill, which was passed originally by an overwhelming margin in the Senate on January 29, would make condoms available to students at at no expense.

Principal Wilson justified his veto in a short presentation he made to each of the Senate's subcommittees. He said that although he endorsed "this bill in spirit," he did not think the bill ready to be implemented as policy.

He commented, "To simply come out and say that because condoms are going to be distributed at the High School the problem [will be resolved] is ridiculous." Wilson explained that he felt a bill of such importance should be discussed throughout the community before being implemented

The bill states that if condoms are made available to Lexington High School free of charge they will be placed in a receptacle in the nurse's office. The condoms would be packaged with educational materials and students would not have to interact with the nurse or any other person when obtaining them.

A recent survey by the Senate of several homerooms showed that more than 90 percent of those responding were in favor of the bill.

Senate Moderator James Kvaal did caution that "there is a lot of opposition to this bill in the community" and that it will "very difficult" to get the bill accepted.

Former School Committee Chairperson Lois Coit agreed with Wilson that the condom issue is a "community issue" and that it needs to be "heard by the community at large" before it is turned into policy at LHS.

Senior Abbie Lawrence voiced support of the bill. "We can't change the decisions that people make. All we can do is make sure that people are educated and have the resources available before they make their decision."

Other students are less positive. Sophomore Jake Horowitz said, "I'm not sure what the effect of the bill will be in our school. I'm not sure if people will want to make the trip to the nurse's office."

Young Signs Contract

Continued from page 1

The School Committee's debate over the finalists took place on two consecutive nights. Originally, only Oberteuffer supported Young. Coit and Zabin were in favor of appointing Donovan, while Spector and Woodworth supported Blaisdell.

Zabin said that he had had a difficult time choosing between Donovan and Young. The big difference was that he saw Donovan's "decided edge on her ability to bring people together" as more important than Young's edge on knowledge of curriculum.

Both Zabin and Coit made it clear early on in the discussion that they would have no qualms about voting for Young if it seemed that the Committee as a whole was leaning towards him. After seeking in vain to come to a decision on Tuesday, February 25, the Committee met again on the 26th.

On Wednesday, Spector asked his colleagues if there was a chance they would be willing to support Blaisdell's candidacy. After several minutes of discussion, Spector concluded, "I've heard nothing that really makes me feel that people are moving toward George Blaisdell."

Then, in a dramatic announcement, Spector declared that he was shifting his support to Young. Woodworth quickly made a motion to offer a contract to Young. The motion passed immediately.

After the vote, Coit commented, "I'm not settling for Jeff Young. I am enthusiastic for Jeff Young's coming."

Young noted that he is eagerly anticipating the opportunity to interact with the members of the Lexington school community. "[I am] stimulated to have the opportunity to work with the teachers, the parents, the community, and the students, who have achieved such excellence."

At the February 8 interview, Young said that he shifted from teaching to administration because he wanted the "chance to have a broader influence." He also described the similarities between the two professions: "Leadership is all about teaching. [A good leader is] able to move people and groups from the unknown to the known."

He said that he believes in asking people "what they think" and that listening to them is a "simple element of human respect." In budget discussions, Young said that it is important that people "feel free enough...to articulate what really matters most" to them.

His belief in the centrality of the classroom came through in much of what Young said. "My only reason for being is to ensure that teachers can do what they need to do," he commented. He called teaching "the most optimistic work that's done on the planet."

In terms of supervision and evaluation, Young noted that the key to helping mediocre teachers "is to touch that part of the teacher that brought him to teaching in the first place....People change because they want to change, not because somebody tells them to change."

Regarding education, Young noted that he believes that the "assumption that the mission of the high school is to fill students up with lots of information" is wrong. He said that there needs to be more connection among different disciplines, that "strictly defined departments need to be challenged."

He commented, "Life is connected....It's only school that disconnects [subjects]."

A school system, according to Young, should give students "the chance to develop what makes him or her unique," but it should also make the students understand that they are part of a community.

In a letter dated March 4 and sent to all staff in the school system, the School Committee wrote, "Dr. Young is a superintendent who treats people with respect, who knows how to listen, and who is willing to change his mind."

The Committee tempered its praise of Young with caution, commenting in the letter, "There is no human being who could possibly fill the many roles a superintendent must play, with perfection....Our problems will not be solved with the arrival of a new superintendent."

Regarding his goals for the Lexington schools, the 40-year-old Young, a Newton resident, said that he wants to "examine the current system to maintain its areas of strength and to support areas that need support." He added that he would develop more specific goals as the next school year draws closer.

> "Leadership is all about teaching. [A good leader is] able to move people and groups from the unknown to the known."
>
> —Future Superintendent Jeffrey Young

Noting that he considers community involvement very important, Young said, "The school is part of a larger community. There should not be walls between the school and the town. We should encourage more and more communication."

Young also values student opinions, stating, "In Lynnfield, I have weekly meetings with all the class presidents. We discuss school issues and whatever else they, as students, are concerned about."

He added, "One of the highlights of my visit to Lexington was having the opportunity to observe a session of the Student/Faculty Senate." He said that he was impressed with the level of "respect and thoughtfulness" demonstrated at the body's February 5 meeting.

Former Superintendent Philip E. Geiger received a base salary of $95,000, with benefits which made his actual salary about $115,000 a year.

When Young assumes the superintendency, acting Superintendent Richard Barnes will return to his former position of assistant superintendent for personnel and administration.

Douglas Yeo, bass trombonist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops, preforms with the LHS Concert Band at the Winter Band Festival. Photo by Jon Feldman

Haydenettes Get Gold in Finland

by Viviane Chao
and Chris Webb

While most people spent their winter break in hibernation, several Lexington High School students were preparing for a journey that would bring them to prominence among international skating teams.

In early January the Haydenettes, Lexington's senior ice skating precision team out of the Hayden Recreation Center, flew to Helsinki, Finland, to compete with eight other countries.

The team was selected to represent the United States along with only three other teams chosen from across the country. The Haydenettes captured both an overall gold medal and the "Most Creative Program" award in the senior division finals.

"We actually didn't know about the Most Creative Award until we won it!" admitted Haydenette Holly Ciampi. The Haydenettes' long program had a Hawaiian theme.

"I guess the judges liked our traditional costumes...Plus, we incorporated authentic Hawaiian 'moves' into our program," added Karen Schlein, a sophomore at the High School.

Lexington's precision team is made up of 36 skaters, including fourteen young women from the High School. Their coach, Lexington resident Lynn Benson, has been instructing the Haydenettes since 1979.

When asked if she had expected the team to win in Finland, Benson said, "[Winning] is always in the back of your mind, but you just never know...The chances of winning eventually come down to one 4:40 long [skating] program during which you just hope that the kids' nerves don't take over."

The Haydenettes encountered stiff competition in Finland, skating against teams from countries including Sweden, France, Switzerland, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. A Japanese team that placed second overall posed the biggest threat. "Japan skated well,...but the edge that the Haydenettes had over their competition was the higher level of difficulty in their maneuvers," asserted Benson.

Michelle Leahy, a sophomore at LHS and part of the troupe that competed in Helsinki, exclaimed, "Going to Finland was a wonderful cultural experience. We went there only to skate our very best."

Recalling the experience, she added, "It was really surprising to know you were a national champion...a total thrill."

"I was really nervous for this, since this was our first major international competition; this was something completely new — a much bigger deal than Nationals," remarked Ciampi.

The young women worked hard to reach the top. During the year, they follow a rigorous regimen, with precision team practices three times a week for about one-and-a-half to two hours at a time. In addition to team practices, the skaters must continually improve their individual skills.

Benson contends, "These girls are strong competitors; when the pressure's on, they can really pull it out of the bag." The Haydenettes' coach insists that the unity of the team is very important. "When they get on the ice and they're working as a team, they seem to put everything else aside — they respect each other as teammates."

The Haydenettes are currently preparing for a national competition in Portland, Maine this April. "I'm sure that we'll do well there," anticipated Bunting, who reminisced, "I'll admit it's corny, but seeing the American flag rise after we

In sophomore David Lin's adaptation of John McNamara's "Present Tense," junior Amanda Palmer threatens senior Brendan Salmond. The play was one of 14 student-directed dramas at the annual Winterfest. Photo by Jon Feldman

Winterfest: A Pleasant Plethora of Pithy Plays

Eugene Mirman

"Spank me!" bellowed Dave Lin, a sophomore, in his low and seductive voice, as two Improv Troupe members gathered around him to fulfill his punitive request. Winterfest, of which the preceding sentence was a mere fragment, is a student-run play festival, including 14 plays and a plethora of random intermediate entertainment. This festival, running (and sometimes stumbling) on the nights of February 6, 7, and 8, made a very large portion of the audience tingle with delight. The 15th play, directed by Marc Goulston and performed by an ever-shifting cast, was mysteriously thrust into another dimension, allowing it only to be viewed by sea otters and Luther Vandros.

The pajama-garbed hosts of the event, Kurt Langer and Brendan Salmond, excreted their humor upon the audience in many forms throughout the festival. The program, the first of these excretions, contained a virtual bizarre of carefully planned typos. One example of this treachery was the perversion of senior Michael Antonucci's name, accidentally misprinted as "Mutton Head" or "Bratwurst."

Along with these came mildly abrasive skits, some of which depicted Skippy the Canadian, played by thespian extraordinaire Jeff Dan. In addition, skits about society wafted their way into the mind of Langer and Salmond and were thenceforth unleashed upon the unsuspecting, yet eagerly awaiting, public. Alec Flett, who wanted his statement to be kept anonymous, was granted his wish.

Poems written by Sara Merrill, Jason Watkins, and Jessica Williams and read by a myriad of people, appeared sporadically throughout the evening. The atmosphere they created was that of a dim night club in the lower east side of a large metropolis. The execution of these poems, which were often tainted with bitterness, was transcendent.

Thursday evening brought with it an interesting array of productions. The excellent depiction of Kurt Vonnegut's "Long Walk to Forever," directed by Mark Stevens, was ma ched only by the pithy and sordid "Chocolate Cr vings," directed and arguably inflicted by Susan McWeeney and Hannah Neumeier.

A mirror-like reenactment of "The Bridge Scene," written by Monty Python and directed and paraphrased by Matt Wi iger, proved to go beyond the bounds of existence. Unf rtunately, the actual bridge in this scene turned out to have structural flaws and occasionally collapsed. The Improv Troupe added to the aroma of the evening with many scenes, not the least of which was a life-like reenactment of an ancient mythological fable involving Hermes stealing the cattle of Apollo.

Leaning away from MIX 98.5 and towards something more humane and decent, Friday night was a jolly assortment of performances. Containing both humorous overtones and humorous undertones, this particular evening proved to have some of the most amusing pieces of the entire festival.

"Present Tense," written by John McNamara and directed by Lin, was the story of a man and his insecurities about his own sexual being. Amanda Palmer's play, "Don't Drop the Mind of the Vegetables or How My Insomnia Turned LHS Stereotype," had so many positive moments that it was deemed pleasant by a majority of the audience. This play used a great deal of music from "Pink Floyd: The Wall" and concluded with an obscure Velvet Underground tune entitled "All Tomorrow's Parties."

"I really enjoyed the music," stated a timid yet robust member of the audience whose name eludes me.

Saturday evening showed the more serious side of this multifarious festival. "The Lesson," written by Eugene Ionesco and directed and adapted by Rebecca Isenberg, managed to combine the characters of a professor, pupil, and maid into an excellent and coherent play.

An eerie skit performed by the Improv Troupe and involving the depiction of three East German women eating breakfast in trance-like states, left the audience repeating the words "Ve always knew" for days. The climax of the evening coincided with the performance of "The Humble," written and directed by Kurt Langer. "It was one of the best plays of Winterfest," revealed a police informant, better known as David Clark.

In total, approximately 375 people came to Winterfest. This year's attempt at a large and titillating festival came far closer to succeeding than did its predecessor, Springfest. Never did the intermediate entertainment have to stall for more than a few minutes, while last year, Justin Frazer and Mark Lavalle were forced to stall for periods of 20 minutes. The smoothness of this event could only be compared with the miracle of Chanukah or the phenomenon of sporks. Though there were complaints of poor lighting and sound, thesecould be easily dismissed by the fact that each play received only one technical rehearsal. When interrogated about her opinion on this year's Winterfest, senior Annie Venier stated, "It's amazing to see so much talent come from the Drama Department....What? Don't use my name."

Jazz Group Plays Way to Success

by Matthew Cole

The Lexington High School Jazz Ensemble has been sweeping the awards on its yearly tour of Jazz Festivals. The musicians have earned a gold medal, a silver, and a first-place trophy in addition to coveted individual awards.

The Norwood Jazz Festival on February 13 opened the season for the ensemble. "I thought we played well for our first festival performance," said junior Chris Sharkey, one of the band's tenor saxophonists.

The festival judges, who rated each band in categories ranging from "intonation" to "interpretation," scored Lexington in a tie for first place with King Phillip High School.

"It was great," enthused bass trombonist Stephen Cooley. "It was wonderful that we swept the solo awards."

The soloists, alto saxophonist Maria Berger, trombonist Ben Nolan, and guitarist J. J. Wiesler, are key to a jazz program that emphasizes improvisation as heavily as does Lexington. "[Out of] all the bands, I really feel our soloists demonstrated the highest level of understanding of the jazz idiom," remarked Jazz Ensemble Director Jeffrey Leonard.

The performances of the three soloists, all seniors, were each individually recognized. Berger received one of two awards for "Best Saxophonist," Nolan, one for "Best Trombonist," and Wiesler, "Best Soloist."

In addition, the trombone section, comprised of Nolan, junior Brett Sroka, senior Matthew Cole, and Cooley, received an award for "Outstanding Performance," a category which had not been created until the section's performance that evening.

"It was a real tribute to the hard work everyone put in," stated Cooley, a senior. Nolan admitted, "We did sound pretty good on the tape."

Sroka, a junior, commented, "I would say that usually in any jazz ensemble, the weakest section is the trombone section. When the judges hear a good trombone section, they like it; they dig it."

After Norwood, the Jazz Ensemble prepared for the Northeast District Festival, using the judges' recorded comments to find weakness in its performance.

Tenor saxophonist David Berger, a senior, stated, "I thought we played better

Continued on page 6

Guitarist J.J. Wiesler and trombonist Ben Nolan, both seniors, have been recognized at several festivals for their outstanding performances as members of the Jazz Ensemble. Photo courtesy Matthew Cole

HARVARD VIDEO

HARVARD VIDEO
at Depot Square
862-6200

Welcomes the Students of LHS!

Show Your LHS ID with Pride and Get:

- Friendly, Excellent Service
- Free Membership
- Open 366 Days
- Reservations Welcomed
- After Hours Movie Drop Slot
- 2 Night, 3 Day Rentals Always for General Release
- Abundant Selection of all types Nintendo Games
- Movie Style Refreshments
- Posters

Free Movie Trinket with Paid Rental
(with this Ad)

Subtle Message: Girls Can't Cut It

When I walked into my honors analytical physics class on the first day of school, I tried desperately to reassure myself that I had not accidentally wandered into the boys' locker room. Nervously glancing around, I soon discovered that that out of a class of 21, only two students (including myself) were female. Although I was still physically located in the familiar science building where I had always been comfortable, I now felt as if I had suddenly entered a place where I might not be welcome.

These early trepidations proved to be unfounded, and I am very glad that I decided to take the course rather than opting for the less rigorous honors physics class, as most of my female friends did. What I am bothered by, however, is the shamefully low enrollment of girls in advanced math and science courses at Lexington High School, which prides itself on excellence of instruction in those fields. Before you conclude that I am some crazed renegade Amazon out to wage war on the male sex, please consider some of this year's rather disturbing statistics:

Of the 138 students currently enrolled in honors algebra 2, 64 are female; of the 40 students enrolled in honors AB calculus, only 16 are female; of the 41 students enrolled in honors analytical physics, only seven are female; of the 26 students in honors BC calculus, only one is female. I am not suggesting that classes should be specifically designed so that there is always an exact 50-50 ratio between the sexes; rather, I contend that the lack of young women taking these courses points to a failure of the school system to motivate female students in these crucial academic areas.

Recently, there has been a steady stream of articles in major newspapers and magazines regarding a study conducted by the American Association of University Women. The study reveals that although math and science ability is not a sex-linked trait and girls frequently outscore boys on early aptitude tests in these areas, girls tend to suffer from lower self-confidence and have greater doubts about their ability to tackle these tough subjects than do their male classmates.

It is logical to assume that someone who believes — or who has been made to believe — that she is not very good at math is quite unlikely to sign up for the most challenging course offered in that department. The results of such self-undervaluing manifest themselves in math and science classes at LHS.

It is logical to assume that someone who believes — or who has been made to believe — that she is not very good at math is quite unlikely to sign up for the most challenging course offered in that department.

How has this situation been allowed to take hold in a school where girls enjoy full participation in everything from student government to sports? Most studies conclude that girls are turned away from math and science not by blatantly sexist teachers who scream inflammatory rhetoric at them, but rather by subtle cultural messages, unconsciously communicated in schools, which suggest that women simply have no place in math- and science-related careers.

Teachers "guilty" of transmitting these messages are usually completely unaware of what they are doing, and can hardly be blamed for attempting to help their students as best they know how. Instead of trying to do the impossible — completely dispel our society's misconceptions about women — we could, working in the real world, take a small step toward equality by helping these teachers. First, we must make them aware of the extent of the problem. They must subsequently begin to apply this knowledge, actively encouraging female students. Then, perhaps some of the best and the brightest who today opt to cheat themselves out of a more demanding education will finally accept the challenge and realize their full potential.

Certainly, it is not only the most talented girls who deserve to be encouraged; all young women — and young men, for that matter — should be helped towards achieving their full potential. Teachers are no more responsible for the current predicament than are any other people, but they should recognize that because of their unique capacity to influence their students, they hold one of the keys to a better, more balanced future.

—Elise Millner

Pass the Bill, Not the Buck

The notion of condom availability has passed from the RePlace Board of Trustees to the Lexington Board of Health to the AIDS/STD Task Force to a liaison appointed by the Board of Health to the School Committee to the AIDS/STD Parent Education Program Committee. Independently, the Condom Bill has gone from Jeremy Giller and me to the Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate Policy and Social Action Committees to the floor of the Senate to an independent subcommittee on the Condom Bill back to the Senate to Principal David A. Wilson to the faculty meeting to the Site-Based Management Council back to the Senate again and finally to the School Committee.

It is enough.

Four years ago, this process began, and, at its inception, many argued that insufficient time and effort had been expended in deliberation and research on this issue. That is no longer the case. The Senate Subcommittee on the Condom Bill has performed extensive research, and the AIDS/STD Task Force has deliberated enough to satisfy anyone's requirements. In the beginning, many argued that more widespread support was needed, but, by now, the Board of Health and the school community have reached a consensus in favor of condom availability. In the beginning, it was argued that more time was needed to educate parents, but this recommendation was made a year ago, and in that time, little has been accomplished beyond the creation of an enmity among the various members of the committee designed to achieve this goal.

Like a smoldering potato, the condom issue has been passed from committee to committee, each more determined than the last to avoid making a decision. The committees themselves are created not to act but to give their creators an excuse for inaction. While the committees bicker, students get sick. During the one week in which the Senate subcommittee researched the prevalence of STDs at the High School, three students were diagnosed with chlamydia.

The time for deliberation, research, and evasion has passed. This is the time for action. The Senate has overridden the principal's veto and the school community is clearly in support of the Condom Bill. I strongly urge the school committee to vote on this issue as soon as possible.

—Josh Knobe

Editor's Note: The preceding opinion was written before the School Committee's March 17 decision to take action on the issue of condom availability by the end of the school year. Knobe co-wrote the Senate's Condom Bill.

Public Education Faces Second Day of Reckoning

The year was 1957. With Sputnik circling high overhead, Americans were forced to take stock of their educational system, to reexamine their ideals and their goals for the future. It marked an ideological turning point in American education. As H.G. Rickover, an admiral of the nuclear Navy and an advocate of educational reform, wrote in his 1959 book *Education and Freedom*, "We are asking searching questions about the aims of education in a modern technological society and how our schools can best achieve them."

Thirty-five years later, we face a similarly momentous turning point. No new satellite floats above our heads to herald this day of reckoning, but there is nevertheless an urgency to our situation. The public education system as we know it is slowly but surely being whittled away by a progression of debilitating budget cuts, cuts that could eventually destroy the integrity of the public education system. Lawmakers and citizens must stop this decline before the damage is irreparable.

It is with a frightening lack of foresight that we submit to the Massachusetts tax laws that have forced us to make these continuing cuts in town budgets. This year, electives such as home economics, music, and typing may be the ones to go. But what about next year? Once all the extras are gone, what then? English? No, because we are required to teach English. The commonwealth sets these requirements, but the laws of that commonwealth do not provide the necessary funds for us to carry out its wishes.

When handed the budget-cutting knife, the voters choose to cut themselves — voting away their fire and police protection, their libraries, their schools.

Proposition 2 1/2 overrides are but a band-aid solution to this crisis. At the time when the tax measure was conceived and voted through, school enrollments were declining and the state was providing significantly more aid to local budgets. But with the school-age population on the rise, the measure is outdated. Nevertheless, Proposition 2 1/2 survives. Override votes represent the only chance that citizens have to control their tax levels. When handed the budget-cutting knife, the voters choose to cut themselves — voting away their fire and police protection, their libraries, their schools.

Rickover wrote in his book, "Our greatest responsibility is to give American youngsters the best possible education. This means that we must not delay building more schools, colleges, and playgrounds. It means that we must reconcile ourselves to continuing higher taxes to build up and maintain at decent salaries a greatly enlarged corps of much better trained teachers, even at the cost of denying ourselves such momentary pleasures as buying a bigger new car, or a TV set, or a household gadget."

We could shrug our shoulders and continue to follow the budget cutting pattern; in doing so, though, we would be shirking our responsibility to educate the next generation of citizens. For more than two centuries, Americans have written of the vital importance of education in a democracy. "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe," wrote H. G. Wells in the early 1950s. Thomas Jefferson, an ardent believer in public education, wrote in a similar strain: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientist John Whitehead said in a 1958 speech, "The rule is absolute, the race which does not value trained intelligence is doomed."

America responded to the challenge of Sputnik, creating high level science classes, pouring thought, effort, and funds into public education. Now, the very people who benefited from those educational programs are standing at a new crossroads. Whether we can rouse ourselves to respond to today's challenge remains to be seen.

—Dena Weinstein

Musket

Editors in Chief ..... Jeremy Giller, Dena Weinstein
News Editors ..... Will Eisner, Bernadine Tsung
Editorials Editor ..... Young-Ho Yoon
Features Editors ..... Matthew Cole, Courtney Duff
Sports Editors ..... Dan Marx, Seetha Ramnath
Photography Editors ..... Jon Feldman, Tina Granger
Art Editors ..... Maria Berger, Peggy Lin
Layout Editor ..... Jeffrey Foster
Business Manager ..... John Ly

* * *

Faculty Advisor ..... Sam Kafrissen
Printer ..... Belmont Printing Company

* * *

Reporters ..... Viviane Chao, Bing Chou, Melissa Liazos, Mandira Mehra, Eugene Mirman, Rupa Mukherjee, Taryn Roeder, Chris Webb
Cartoonist ..... Les McClaine

Copyright 1992 Lexington High School *Musket*. All rights reserved.

The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the *Musket* editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, *Musket* realizes its responsibility to print other opinions. Leave short, tasteful letters to the editor in the *Musket* mailbox in the LHS Student Activities Center. Only signed letters will ordinarily be printed. *Musket* reserves the right to edit for length.

Young's Success is Everybody's Job

For two nights at the end of February, the Lexington School Committee turned away from dire budget cuts and steep user fees to face a happier dilemma: whom to choose as the town's next superintendent of schools. With its decision to offer Dr. Jeffrey Young the position, effective this July, the committee paved the way for a future of vigor, enthusiasm, and creativity. Dr. Young is the right person at the right time to lead the Lexington Public Schools.

First and foremost, Lexington's soon-to-be superintendent is an educator. When he shifted from English teacher to administrator in the early 1980s, Dr. Young did not simultaneously shift his view of the educational world. He did not move from the classroom to an ivory tower. On the contrary, everything he has done in his administrative positions speaks to his conviction that the interaction between student and teacher is sacred. It is this interaction, he often says, which "matters most."

Dr. Young manifests this classroom-based philosophy in countless ways, visiting classes frequently and playing a major role in curriculum decisions. Most telling, though, is his insistence on making the classroom the center of budget discussions in Lynnfield. By so insisting, Dr. Young has turned a traditionally onerous process into an opportunity to reevaluate where the school system stands, to refocus the system on its true goal: education. He is thus able to extract something positive from the least likely of sources.

"People change because they want to change, not because somebody tells them to change," Dr. Young said at his February 8 interview. This statement describes in a nutshell Dr. Young's philosophy of leadership. He will neither issue unilateral directives nor act rashly, because he knows that such moves are likely only to instill animosity, not effect positive change. Dr. Young will instead seek input from appropriate quarters, listen, and deliberate. Only then will he act.

By taking into account what others have to say, Dr. Young demonstrates respect; by taking action based on this input, he demonstrates his belief that a school system must always be on the move, looking toward tomorrow. It is for these two reasons most of all that Dr. Young is right for Lexington: his respect for others and his vision. After the last few years, the schools need a healthy dose of both qualities, especially at the administrative level.

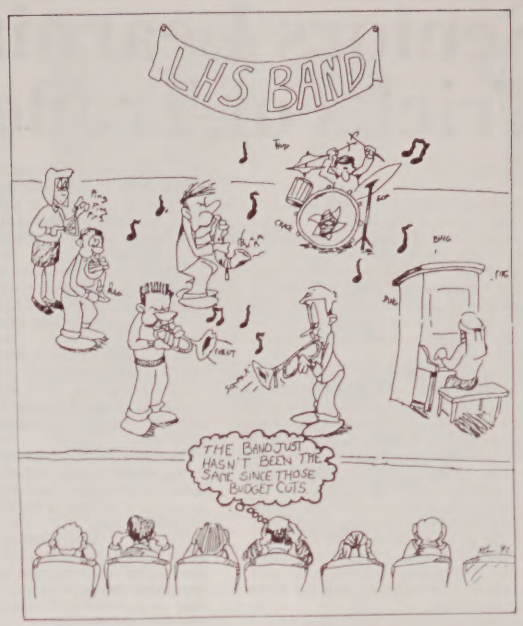
But Dr. Young cannot do it all himself. To be truly effective, he will need everyone's help. The faculty must not allow lingering feelings of ill will and resentment toward the past superintendent to cloud its view of Dr. Young. Such sentiments should never be maintained from one administration to the next, but the irony in this case is that the comparison between the two superintendents is so remarkably inapt. It is difficult to imagine the past superintendent saying, as did Dr. Young at his interview, "My only reason for being is to ensure that teachers can do what they need to do."

Beyond viewing Dr. Young with an open mind, faculty and middle-level administrators must be willing to work with the new superintendent. They must be make special efforts to offer Dr. Young the input that is so integral to how he leads a school system.

For his part, Dr. Young must work to rebuild an atmosphere of trust in the school system. Without trust, his ideas cannot be translated into action. For people to "feel free enough...to articulate what really matters most" to them, as Dr. Young put it at his interview, and to take the risks that he encourages, they must feel comfortable.

On July 6, the Lexington Public Schools and Dr. Jeffrey Young will begin their work together. In many respects, Dr. Young's superintendency — how he approaches budget difficulties, attracts new employees, chooses curricula — will define the future of education in Lexington. We can all make his difficult task easier by entering the relationship with a positive mind and by offering Dr. Young the input that he needs. In the long run, if people work with Dr. Young and allow themselves to catch his optimism and enthusiasm, education will emerge the winner.

—Jeremy Giller



Musket
editorial positions
open for 1992-1993

Applications available in Student Activities Center

Editor in Chief
News
Editorials
Features
Sports
Photography
Art
Layout
Business

Attendance:

Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate
September 11, 1991 - March 18, 1992

	Name	Present/ Meetings	Excused	Unexcused
Seniors:	Heidi Chang	24/24	0	0
	Gina Coplon	21/24	1	2
	Jeremy Giller	23/24	1	0
	James Kvaal	23/24	1	0
	Doug Lucente	23/24	0	1
	David Monaco	22/24	1	1
	Justin Sweder	21/24	1	2
Juniors:	Andrew Blumsack	23/24	1	0
	Will Eisner	23/24	1	0
	Carrie Granger	21/24	2	1
	Courtney Harter	24/24	0	0
	Julie Havens	14/24	5	2
	Matt Lippert	24/24	0	0
	Taryn Roeder	23/24	1	0
Sophomores:	Paul Abbot	24/24	0	0
	Cara Attanucci	20/24	3	1
	Natalie Berger	23/24	1	0
	Tina Iyer	21/24	2	1
	Katie Ludwig	20/24	2	2
	Kate Olivier	23/24	0	1
Freshmen:	Erin Carlson	17/17	0	0
	Jill Marble	14/17	1	2
	Jason Miller	15/17	0	2
	Rupa Mukherjee	17/17	0	0
	Annelise Sorensen	16/17	0	1
	Pat Yee	14/17	0	3
Int'l Students Association:	Josh Knobe	13/17	4	0
Newcomers' Club:	Shubang Mishra	7/9	1	1
Faculty:	Lisa Berrol	7/8	1	0
	Elaine Engelberg	21/24	1	2
	Michael Fiveash	24/24	0	0
	Karen Girondel	22/24	2	0
	Sam Kafrissen	23/24	1	0
	Sal Lopes	19/24	2	3
	Smedley Manion	16/24	0	8
	George Mechem*	5/6	0	1
	Les Phillips	23/24	0	1
	Dick Raczkowski*	16/17	1	0
	Frank Sarno	7/7	0	0
	Dick Shohet	7/8	0	1
	David Spang	24/24	0	0

*Resigned

Letters to the Editor

Social Worker Questions Students' Respect for Others

To the Editor:

On "Super Tuesday" I was walking in the main building, beyond the entrance to the gym and the voting booths, where some students were talking very loudly and using strong language. Mindful of the fact that there were classes in the area, I asked the students to please be quieter. Their response of seeming disregard and continued boisterous chatter raised, for me, many questions, among them the treatment of a guest at the high school; for, since I did not know the students personally, they may have assumed that I was a voter and not a member of the faculty. I was troubled by their lack of responsiveness to a reasonable request and by the apparent lack of concern for students and teachers in neighboring classrooms.

Ultimately, this experience raises the important question how we, as members of a community, treat one another. It would be my hope that each of us, in the appropriate forum, will consider this question in the context of concern for[the] kind of community we want to build at Lexington High School.

Sincerely,
Rachel S. Rosenblum
Social Worker

This sundial works even after sundown.

What use is a bookstore where everyone locks up and goes home at 5 pm? That's why Sundial Bookstore stays open late—'til 9 pm, Monday through Saturday, and 5 pm on Sundays.

So, you have more time to browse through our hand-picked selection of best sellers, mystery books, contemporary fiction, children's books, travel books, and more. If you're a book-lover, visit us at Sundial Bookstore. We'll be waiting up for you.

SUNDIAL BOOKSTORE

1666 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA 02173 862-6003
Open 9:30 to 9:00 Monday–Saturday, 12:00 to 5:00 Sunday

All-Night Graduation Party: *Medieval Magic*

Graduation Day, May 31, 1992

The Lexington High School gym will be transformed into a magic medieval manor from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. on May 31 in honor of the Class of 1992.

Tickets will be on sale for only $15 in the month of May.

There will be an all-night D.J., games and contests, dancing, movies, videos, food, a time capsule, caricaturists, and many surprises.

Every senior should be there: It's your last opportunity to be together!

Seniors Learning Tricks of Trades

by Courtney Duff

Experience is key. In the '90s, even with a college degree, it may be difficult to get a job in your field of choice. Regardless of what college you've graduated from, your GPA, or your extra-curricular activities, without experience you probably won't get the job you've dreamed of right away. But, with a little hands-on experience, you've already situated yourself on the road to success.

Lexington High School is one of a select few high schools to offer an internship program, giving seniors an opportunity to gain insight into future careers. Not only does the program help seniors decide what they might want to pursue as a career, but it also lets them spend the second half of their senior year in "the real world."

This year there are nine full-time interns in the senior class, working everywhere from the inner-city to the most rural suburb. Experience-Based Coordinator Nancy Gordon is responsible for visiting each intern on-site and meeting with the entire group each week.

The full-time interns are required to be at their job four days a week, spending Fridays at school. As for the sixty part-time interns each spends one day a week at the work site.

At the termination of the internships, sponsors are requested to write recommendations for each student. These are often forwarded to colleges and used as references for future job openings.

Vanessa Tropeano, who works for the Pucker-Safrai art gallery located on Newbury Street in Boston, said that "colleges are very impressed when you tell them about your internship."

"When I was at a college interview and I mentioned my internship, they were really interested, and were writing down everything I said about it," concurred Cheshire.

Tropeano feels that she learns more when at work than at school, and sees "how other people do things." She commented, "Before college, it is a bonus to have a taste of what you're going to be doing. It really helps you to decide what you want to do."

Rebecca Isenberg, an intern at the New England Aquarium, is taking classes while at her site. She is participating in a guide course to work with animals at the tide pool, and attends talks about the giant ocean tank.

In order to be a successful intern, it is crucial to be familiar with a great deal of information. Isenberg, an aquarium guide at the tide pool, is required to know about each animal and to be able to answer the visitors' questions.

Kim Kirkland, an intern at the Bridge School, is a fifth grade teacher assistant, while Tameka Barlow and Lakeisha Taylor both work at the day care center in Boston City Hospital.

In downtown Boston, Marc Goulston works at the Department of Corrections and Public Affairs. In a different office almost every day, Goulston has helped to compile important documents for the department.

Courtney Duff, an intern at Drumlin Farm, observes and assists teachers on tours and programs, and teaches off-site programs at schools in the area with various wild animals.

While all the internships are quite different from one another, they do have similarities. All of the participants have chosen to spend their senior years in a different way than most, while still having a valuable learning experience.

Resplendent in his sombrero and sunglasses, sophomore Mehran Khaghani contemplates the scene at the March 6 Cabaret International. The Cabaret was a potpourri of skits, songs, and dances from around the world. Photo by Jon Feldman

Recycling Runs Into Snags

by Rupa Mukherjee

The high school recycling program, initiated three years ago by a group of students who felt strongly about environmental issues, has been "running fairly well," according to systemwide Supervisor for Buildings and Grounds John Moynihan. He added, however, that the program has encountered obstacles this year in its white paper and aluminum can efforts.

There are three different facets of the recycling program. The first, established three years ago and accomplished with assistance from the cafeteria staff, involves the polysterene trays and plastic utensils used in the school cafeterias. These products, Moynihan said, are sorted, bagged, and collected twice a week by an independent contractor.

The schools also participate in the townwide recycling program, through the yellow bins in each room. Until June 1991, however, these bins were for white paper only.

At that time, the third facet of the recycling program was instituted. White paper and computer paper, deposited in blue bins, is now collected once a week by the Woburn-based Office Paper Recycling Corporation. The town collects the material in the yellow bins, which includes aluminum cans, newspapers, and glass.

Before the arrival of the blue bins, the white paper in the yellow bins was being contaminated with items such as colored paper, soda cans, and gum. As a result, Moynihan said, the school lost the services of the pick-up contractor last year and had to suspend the white paper program.

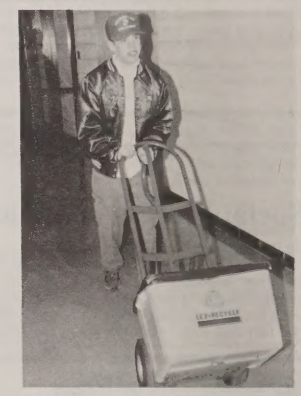
The town was able to renegotiate with the contractor and thus reinstitute the program, but was forced to purchase a set of blue bins for the schools to help the school commmunity distinguish between the various recycling programs.

The LABB program has been an essential component of the recycling effort. Responsible for collecting the white paper and other products from classrooms and offices throughout the school, the LABB students also screen the products for contamination.

Assistant Principal for Maintenance and Facilities Anthony Capezza expressed disappointment with students' reaction to the program, saying, "The High School's student population has not...supported the program in the way I would have thought they would."

Moynihan commented that he would "like to see more people get involved. People are quick to criticize a program when it is not working out right, [but] they are not doing anything to rectify the situation.

"It would help if people think before throwing soda cans ignorantly in the wrong containers."



LABB student Ned Bjorkman transports a full yellow recycling bin. Photo by Jon Feldman

Jazz Ensemble Hits High Note

Continued from page 3

[at Districts], because we heard the comments of the judges and took them into consideration, with just one rehearsal."

Leonard was encouraged by the growth of the group from one performance to the next, stating, "That students are able to understand and apply sophisticated musical concepts in a such short amount of time demonstrates to me that there is a good deal of high-level thinking going on."

Unlike the straight numerical rating system of the Norwood festival, the District competition operated on a three-category system — bronze, silver, and gold.

Lexington received a gold medal, the only one awarded at the festival. Senior soloists Berger, Nolan and Wiesler were again recognized for their "Outstanding Musicianship."

Wiesler received the prestigious "Most Valuable Player" award for his finely crafted solos. He had a unique opportunity to demonstrate his adaptability as a soloist, when Nolan, stepping back from his own solo, accidentally disconnected Wiesler's guitar from its amplifier.

"The thing with the cord was funny," said Wiesler. "I didn't want it want to make a sound when I put [the cord] back in. It did, though." After a brief, electronic growl while he slid the plug into place, Wiesler continued his solo without a hitch.

Freshman Matt Briggs, after observing his first festival, found that his favorite piece was the ballad *Georgia On My Mind*. "That sounded really cool," he raved, "The sax solo on that was really intense."

Briggs is one of a number of "roadies," LHS students who travel to area jazz festivals to hear Lexington and the other groups play. "It's amazing to hear other people your age produce music like that," said sophomore Kate Parker.

By winning a gold medal at Districts, the Jazz Ensemble qualified to go to the Massachusetts State Jazz Festival. In preparation, the saxophone-trombone-guitar trio of soloists was augmented by trumpeter Michael Weigand.

Fellow senior and trumpet player Roger Lowther described the air of anticipation at the more competitive festival, noting, "Everybody was really focused. People were concentrating on the music even before we started playing."

Coming off stage, however, many players were dissatisfied with their performance. "It wasn't very good," mourned bassist Matt Liston, a junior, "[but] at least I didn't trip and fall down."

Alto saxophonist Elena Proakis, a senior, recalled, "We weren't always together...In general, we played very well, but not to our fullest."

Berger and Wiesler again netted "Outstanding Musicianship" awards, but the Jazz Ensemble as a whole was given a silver rating rather than the gold it had hoped to earn.

"We still did well," stated Weigand. "[It's] not that medals are everything."

"I thought we did the best we could," agreed Lowther.

Even without the awards, attending the festivals has given students an opportunity to become exposed to jazz music. "I had no experience in the jazz idiom until this year, so I'm sort of soaking up things like a sponge," remarked Briggs. "I've learned a lot in the last six months."

From a senior's perspective, Weigand echoed Briggs' sentiments, "I really cannot express how pleased I've been to work in Lexington's music program."

"We may not have achieved what we set out to achieve," Leonard commented, "[but] you can never ask for more than a group's best effort, and that's what we got."

cca College Counseling Associates • 1620 Massachusetts Avenue
• Lexington, MA 02173 • (617) 861-0104

Peter Mackie, Ed.D. Myra Trachtenberg, M.Ed.

cca SERVICES

The experienced professional team that provides comprehensive college planning for secondary school students and parents.

The process of college choice involves the following components:

- Self-assessment
- Acquisition and evaluation of pertinent information
- Informed decision making
- Allocating appropriate responsibilities to students and parents
- Purposeful action and follow-up

Our team provides 12 hours of professional time for our comprehensive fee. Consultation services are also available on an hourly basis.

The following are some of our typical services:

- Transcript evaluation
- Working out a suitable time table for standardized testing
- Interest testing and interpretation
- Developing meaning and criteria for college choices
- Assessing admission prospects
- Establishing a personal timeline for college applications
- Constructing a balanced list of colleges
- Resolving personal and family conflict around college choice

Essays and extended application are available.

Please call our office for additional information.

cca

HARVARD VIDEO

HARVARD VIDEO
at Depot Square
862-6200

Salutes the Students of Lexington High!

Show Your LHS ID with Pride and Get:

- Friendly, Excellent Service
- Free Membership
- Open 366 Days
- Reservations Welcomed
- After Hours Movie Drop Slot
- 2 Night, 3 Day Rentals Always for General Release
- Abundant Selection of all types Nintendo Games
- Movie Style Refreshments
- Posters

Free General Release Rental with Paid Rental
(with this Ad)

Swimmers Emerge League Co-Champs

by Matthew Cole

The boys' swim team stormed to a 249-245 victory over its archrival, Winchester, in a meet that once again came down to the final relay.

This marks the third year in a row that the Lexington swimmers have won the Middlesex League meet, and the second time in three years that Lexington has held the league co-championship.

The meet was expected to be a showdown among Lexington (4-1 league record), Reading (4-1), and Winchester (3-2). Lexington started at a disadvantage in the meet because it was competing without divers for the first year ever, thereby almost guaranteeing Winchester an easy twenty points.

Junior Chris Tullman spoke the team's sentiment before the meet: "I thought we'd win. I knew we *could*, but I didn't know if we would."

From the first event, it was apparent that Lexington was ready for the challenge. The 200-yard medley relay team of freshman Noah Herman, senior David Murman, senior Matthew Cole, and senior Robbie Egan finished first with a time of 1:52.83, outswimming both Winchester (1:53.48) and Reading (1:55.37).

Lexington continued to do well through the first part of the meet. Cole finished second in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:04.53.

Leaving the competition floundering in his wake, co-captain Murman cruised to a first-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:07.73, while seniors Greg McDonald (2:48.84) and Colin Glover (3:01.53) placed 10th and 12th.

Because of the removal of the diving board at the Minuteman Tech Pool, Lexington had no entries in the next event, diving. It was also the only event in which Winchester placed first, because of Lexington's domination in the swimming events.

"The kids got pumped up" said head coach John Henriques. "They [had] to 'eat' the points from diving."

"It was probably the best meet. Everyone was pumped and came through with breaking their best times," said McDonald.

The next event, the 100-yard butterfly, was one of the closest races of the day, with Reading's Kris Grabarek (56.84) barely outtouching Egan (57.22) and two Winchester seniors, who followed just seconds behind. In an event dominated by seniors, two freshman, Dan Kress (1:09.46) and Justin Kinner (1:19.41) claimed eighth and tenth, while junior Jire Baran snagged 15th with a 1:27.41.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Herman and Randall placed third and fifth respectively, churning out impressive times of 58.16 and 1:00.50.

The senior team of Murman and Cole pulled off a first-third finish the 500-yard freestyle. Murman finished with an incomparable 5:00.95 and Cole placed third at 5:37.40. Sophomore Brian Smith (6:49.41) and freshman Kinner (6:49.62) were neck-and-neck for the whole twenty lengths, finishing a powerful 12th and 13th overall.

> Leaving the competition floundering in his wake, co-captain David Murman cruised to a first-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley.

The 200-yard freestyle relay, comprised of four swimmers who each swim a 50-yard leg, is a contest between teams with the best sprinters. Belmont (1:42.55) and Winchester (1:43.91) claimed first and second, and the Lexington relay of McDonald, Kress, Randall, and Smith pulled off a fifth with 1:49.86.

Co-captain Egan continued the drive for the gold with a first place finish (1:02.65) in the 100-yard backstroke. Herman (1:07.81) and Tullman (1:19.33) brought in valuable fifth and 10th places.

The Lexington swim team has traditionally done well in the 100-yard breaststroke. The experienced powerhouse of Kress (1:13.41), Kuo (1:17.19), and Smith (1:17.55) netted third, seventh, and eighth, outswimming their competitors by less than half a second each. Chang swam a 1:20.24, good for 13th place, and Sung, sophomore Dave Santucci, and Shiau pulled off times of 1:27.17, 1:28.06, and 1:46.06

Going into the last event, the Lexington relay team of "Egan-Cole-Herman-Murman" knew that it would have to win the race to win the meet.

The 400-yard freestyle relay surged through the water to a time of 3:40.59, outdistancing both Belmont (3:42.92) and Winchester (3:44.61).

"I couldn't believe we won; I was flabbergasted," said Glover. The final scores were Lexington, 249; Winchester, 245; Belmont, 213; Reading, 210; Melrose, 178; and Burlington, 127. "We came through at the end," commented McDonald.

Following its traditional ritual after a tough win, the team threw both Henriques and Assistant Coach Donna Cerrato into the deep water of the diving pool. "We came through with great emotion," explained McDonald.

A drier Henriques later commented that "a strong senior core and the depth of the underclassmen ended up a [winning combination]."

Higgins credited "the older guys" with showing the new swimmers how to "keep up the attack,...finding the key" to faster swimming.

The young team encountered difficulty at the beginning of the season, especially without regular practices over winter vacation. Santucci noted, "We started off slow, but we came out best."

"As always, we started out weak," concurred Jason Simon. "[Reading] was a poorly timed meet."

Only two days after December vacation, Lexington went into the first in-league meet down ten swimmers. As a consequence, Reading defeated the Minutemen, 92 to 77.

"Reading shouldn't have happened — they shouldn't have beaten us," stated Kostorizos.

The LHS swimmers went on to battle Winchester, last year's league champs.

Throughout the meet, neither team managed to pull ahead of the other by more than six points. The final score was calculated at an 85 to 85 tie until one of the tabulators noticed an error.

One Winchester swimmer was listed in an extra event; the coach had sent the wrong name to the scoresheet.

The referees examined the scoresheet again, and adjusted the score in accordance with league guidelines. The adjusted score was 93 to 76, in Lexington's favor.

"It looked like were really well-matched teams," mused Kostorizos, considering that twist of fate, "They should have placed better in the league."

Lexington extended that victory into a streak as Melrose, 45 to 41, Belmont, 94 to 76, and Burlington, 96 to 71 succumbed to the Minutemen's powerful strokes. The team also made history by defeating Westford Academy, (91-89) a non-league rival that finally yielded to Lexington after years of competition.

At the end of this record-breaking season, Lexington's record stood at 4-1 league, 5-3 overall. The team shares the league co-championship with Reading, but the four-point league-meet victory gives the team what Henriques called "bragging rights" over the rest of the league.

"It's good to know when you stand at the top," Shiau commented, "It was very fun."

But, the swim team has never set its sights on victory alone. Henriques often changes the line-up during a meet to keep the scores competitive.

"I'd rather rather lose a close meet than win by a mile," he said, explaining that neither crushing nor being crushed helps a team progress. "Of course, winning a close meet is even better," he added.

Murman praised Henriques for that philosophy, saying, "He's never concerned with winning or losing, only with producing the best results [the team] can...He's the most inspirational coach I've

Junior Kelly Harrington drives past her Chelmsford opponent at a February 22 home game. The girls' basketball team finished the regular season with a 10-8 record. Photo by Jon Feldman

Girls' Track Goes 7-2

Team finishes behind Reading in race for title

by Melissa Liazos

The girls' indoor track team continued its winning ways this year, completing the regular season with a record of 7-2. Although the team was not able to capture the Middlesex League title, as it had in previous years, it nevertheless competed impressively.

Lexington's last meet of the season was a tri-meet against Melrose and long-time rival Reading. Lexington was expected to defeat Melrose, and they easily fulfilled expectations with a 62-20 victory.

The battle with Reading, however, was an entirely different story. Lexington had to beat Reading in order to move into a tie for the league title. In the first event senior Bernadine Tsung captured third place in the 45-yard hurdles. Lexington then ran into some bad luck in the 45-yard dash. Junior Lora Marzilli, expected to win the event, was disqualified. Junior Jane Cargill, however, garnered third place.

One of the most exciting races of the season was the 600-yard run. Freshman Caroline Kasparian, who had never competed in the event before, ran a tactical and intelligent race, netting a first-place finish with a time of 1:35.6.

Lexington also picked up first-place finishes in the 300-yard run thanks to Becky Dennison, in the 100 by Cara Attanucci, the mile by Chloe Hill, the shot-put by Michelle Pavidis and the two-mile by Maria Berger. Despite all of these successes, the team suffered a disappointing loss, 54-32, and with it the hopes for another league title were dashed.

In meets prior to that, Lexington fared quite well. They defeated Wakefield by a blowout score of 64-22, taking first place in every event but one. In an earlier tri-meet, Lexington enjoyed a resounding victory over Burlington, 55-31, with first place finishes in eight of the ten events.

The team also raced against Stoneham, where things were much tighter. Lexington performed well throughout, and the outcome came down to the last two events, the two-mile and the one-mile relay. Despite wins in both of these events, Lexington was not able to garner enough overall points to win the meet. Stoneham handed the Minutemaids a very close loss, by a score of 44.5-41.5.

In state and class competition, Lexington also fared well. In the Class A Meet, Lexington came in a close third, and actually scored more points than had been expected. They boasted two Class A champions, Berger in the two-mile and Dennison in the 1000.

In the state meet, Lexington was well-represented as a team. Berger and Dennison each ran personal bests in their events, and both finished second in the entire state. However, Lexington also faced several hardships. Marzilli had been suffering from several lingering injuries that week and was unable to perform up to par.

Hill was on her way to a superb mile time, but unfortunately fell with three laps to go in the race. She recovered, managing to finish with an excellent time. Although the overall results may have been somewhat disappointing, the individual performances turned in were highly commendable.

Towards the end of the season, a great deal of improvement could be seen among the team members, a trend which bodes extremely well for next season. Cargill lowered her time in the dash, and virtually all of the hurdlers bettered their scores. Lexington also has many talented newcomers, who not only performed well this year, but who also made the future look bright.

Kasparian's times in the 300, 600 and mile were impressive. Sophomore Arpi Terzian brought her mile time down considerably, to within one second of qualifying for the state meet.

Senior Wayne Meadows blocks a shot from his Burlington opponent at a February 15 home game. Minuteman Keith Groppi, also a senior, pursues the puck for a quick recovery. Photo by Jon Feldman

Hoopsters Fall in North Final

by Bing Chou
with Dena Weinstein

The Lexington Minutemen, seeded number one in the state Division I basketball tournament, finished their season with a 91-78 loss to South Boston in the March 7 North sectional championship game. Lexington's final record was an impressive 20-2.

The championship game, played at the UMass-Boston gymnasium, was close and tense. As the vocal and excited fans on both sides looked on, Lexington built an 11-point lead with 7:28 remaining in the first half, only to have South Boston close out the first half with a 28-14 run and a one-point lead.

In the second half, the teams were neck-and-neck through nearly eight minutes of play. At the 7:54 mark, Lexington guard Charlie Williams, a senior, hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 62 points apiece. Williams's shot proved to be the Minutemen's last gasp, though, as the Southie team took over with a 10-0 run that effectively dashed the Minutemen's hopes for a championship.

The South Boston team went on to win the state Division I title. In the *Boston Globe*'s final poll of area coaches, Lexington was ranked third behind South Boston and East Boston.

The previous week, the Minutemen produced a strong victory against Andover at the Salem High School gym. Although the Andover team pulled to within four points during the second half, the Minutemen's Rashad Wilson took over with two successive three-pointers to assure the win.

The team finished the regular season with a record of 17-1 after defeating long-time rival Burlington in front of a packed home crowd, losing only to top 20-ranked Belmont on the the Marauders' home court.

The Minutemen were awarded the number-one seed in the Division I tourney and consequently drew a "bye" in the first round of tournament action.

In the second round, Lexington met Somerville in Reading. The Minutemen played what was perhaps their best game of the season for a 24 point victory (89-65). Junior point guard Wilson scored 30 points in the game, canning treys throughout. Senior forward John Bridges added 22 points, breaking down the Somerville defense in the process.

Senior center Craig Murray scared the Somerville press break into holding the ball after drawing several charges early in the game.

Elsewhere in the division, Medford defeated Everett in the second round to earn a spot against the Minutemen.

The Minutemen sprang to a 10-1 lead in the opening minutes of the Medford game, held at Brandeis University, but missed many open jumpers after the initial spurt. Though its offense sputtered, the Lexington defense held the Medford team to a low score with its usual full-court pressure. Murray again drew first-half charges that killed the opponents' press-breaking efforts. The Minutemen headed into the locker room after a frustrating 24-24 first half.

> Senior Charlie Williams's shot proved to be the Minutemen's last gasp, as the Southie team went on a 10-0 run that dashed Lexington's hopes for a championship.

Medford opened the second half by jumping out to a 10-point lead after just two minutes of play. The Minutemen, backed by a spirited Lexington crowd, regained the lead with their relentless full-court pressure. The comeback was led by All-Star Jeff Samarjian, a senior, who made several key steals and converted them into lay-ups with under eight minutes left in the game.

Despite finishing with its lowest point total of the season, Lexington was able to hold off Medford and emerge victorious.

Point guard Rashad Wilson, a junior, blows by his Burlington opponent on his way to an easy two points. The Minutemen emerged victorious at the February 14 home game and went on to finish the regular season 17-1, garnering the top seed in the state Division I tourney. Photo by Jon Feldman

The Minutemen in action: *At top, senior John Bridges rises above his startled opponents to sink a bank shot. Below, everything is up in the air as senior Tom Scott struggles to regain possession.* Photos by Jon Feldman

Strong Second-Place Finish for Boys' Track

by Dan Marx

Another long season of individual and team triumphs has passed for the boys' indoor track team. Another long season of sweat and dedication, another long season of hopes and dreams, has come to a close. And another second place finish to Reading.

Sixteen years? Seventeen? Who can keep track any more? For as long as anyone competing in the Middlesex League can remember, Reading has *been* Middlesex League Indoor Track. Reading and only Reading.

The result of this year's competition is especially misleading, however. The scoreboard read, "Us 35, Them 51," but there was no definitive defeat, no crushing loss. Rather, there was a long, hard struggle with the better team finally prevailing.

But, there are no complaints from the Lexington side of the ledger. Disappointment, maybe, but as Coach Arthur Reed put it, "This team has nothing to be ashamed of. We should be proud. We had a great season. So, we lost to Reading, but it was a good meet; we ran well."

In fact, it was a great meet. Even the Reading backers — the team traditionally brings a busload of parents, friends, and fans — were on the edges of their seats.

The meet opened with the 45-meter hurdles. Reading sported its best athlete, David Jesser, who by the end of the night racked up almost a third of Reading's points. Jesser, not surprisingly, won the hurdles in a time of 6.0 seconds. Lexington, however, far from playing dead, did not give up easily. The Minutemen's Jimmy Sheehy, who finished as the runner-up a mere tenth of a second behind Jesser, had at times even taken the lead.

> "We had a great season. So, we lost to Reading, but it was a good meet; we ran well."
>
> —Boys' Track Coach Arthur Reed

Josh Gillis, also a junior, took third with a time of 6.7. Lexington's depth in the hurdles kept victory within reach: Only one point separated the two teams.

Lexington's dashers carried on the fight. Although sophomore Johann Jack was the pre-race favorite in the 45, junior Scott Arch, with a quick start, posed an unexpected challenge to his teammate.

Jack eventually caught Arch to win the 45 in 5.3 seconds, but Arch fought him all the way. He, too, was clocked at 5.3, only hundredths of a second separating the two Lexington competitors.

Sophomore Greg Landel carried on the Lexington drive in the 600-meter event. He embarrassed the Rockets' best runners, finishing first in 1:17.7, a full two seconds in front of the field. Both Landel and Jack were successful at the state Class A meet, Landel finishing sixth in his event and Jack second in his

At the Reading meet, sophomore Simon Edwards pulled out a second place in the 300 meters. Only steps behind Reading Rocket Dan McGrath, one of the league's — and possibly the state's — best, Edwards finished in a respectable 35.2.

But Lexington's early streak was to go for naught: Reading would win every remaining event.

Lexington's Eric Losick, a junior, finished in the number two spot for LHS with a 2:30 race. Young-Ho Yoon was Lexington's lone scorer in the one-mile race. The senior placed third with his 4:51.2 effort. The sophomore duo of Lowell Ladd and Fred Simon finished in second and third places with times of 10:36 and 10:39.

The high jump, too, was dominated by the Rockets, or, more specifically, by David Jesser. Jesser skipped the first round, indicating he felt confident enough to begin even higher. In fact, he passed on all of the heights until Lexington had been eliminated, at 5'6".

Jack and senior Avi Schacter finished 2-3 for Lexington. Jesser then began. When he finished, he had soared to a height of 6'2".

One of the Minutemen's brightest spots was the shot put, an event which had plagued them for most of the season. Senior Pat McDonough, a portrait of determination, had steadily improved from when he was throwing in the mid-30s at the beginning of the season. McDonough, at the Reading meet, hurled the shot a full 42 feet, 11 3/4 inches.

The meet was over. Lexington had lost. Well, there remains hope. While Reading's lineup is full of seniors, Lexington's is younger. Maybe next year...